

**** RALEIGH POLICE DEPT. PUBLIC NOTICE ****

A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) will be in Raleigh from Dec. 4 to Dec. 7 to conduct an on-site assessment of the Raleigh Police Department as part of the re-accreditation effort. The Department is inviting the community to become involved in the CALEA process.

The Raleigh Police Department first achieved national accreditation from CALEA in 1992. To attain accredited status, a law enforcement agency must meet 484 standards in eight law enforcement areas: Role, Responsibilities and Relationships with other agencies; Organization, Management and Administration; Personnel Structure; Personnel Process; Operations and Support; Traffic Operations; Prisoner and Court Related Activities; and Auxiliary and Technical Services. To maintain the status, accredited police departments must undergo re-accreditation every three years; Raleigh is now in the midst of that process.

While CALEA accreditation is not mandatory, it is highly sought after since it demonstrates that a law enforcement agency is meeting the highest standards of professional excellence. As one part of the re-accreditation process, employees and community members are invited to provide comments to the assessment team. There will be three ways to do that:

- On Tues., Dec. 5 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., individuals may talk to the re-accreditation assessment team by calling (919) 996-1167;
- On Wed., Dec. 6, at 5 p.m., they may attend a public hearing that will be held in the City Council Chamber, Room 201 of Raleigh Municipal Building, 222 W. Hargett St.;
- Or they may submit written comments to the assessment team now through Dec. 7 by writing to CALEA at 13575 Heathcote Blvd., Suite 320, Gainesville, VA, 20155.

Oral comments will be limited to 10 minutes per person and must address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA standards. A copy of those standards is available for public review in the Office of Professional Standards at Raleigh Police Department Headquarters, 6716 Six Forks Rd. Information about the standards and about the re-accreditation process also may be obtained by calling Sgt. Brian Lampe at (919) 996-1611.

CALEA's accreditation program manager for the Raleigh Police Department is John Gregory. In accordance with CALEA's policies, the assessment team is made up of law enforcement practitioners from similar agencies that are not located in the same state as the entity being considered for accreditation. The members of the on-site team are: Chief Deputy Patricia Garrison, Charleston County Sheriff's Office, Charleston, SC, and Deputy Chief Donald Gasparini, Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, Winnebago County, IL.

The team will conduct interviews, visit police offices and review written materials as part of the on-site assessment. After it completes its review, the team will report findings to the full Commission, which has the responsibility for making decisions on re-accreditation.